

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to improve the readability of the claim. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 17-32 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 17-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frangione et al (US Patent No. 6,516,189, hereinafter Frangione) in view of Fox, et al. (US Patent No. 5,765,172, hereinafter Fox). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Frangione reference appears to have been filed March 17, 1999. The Applicant's application was filed in the USPTO December 14, 1999. However, in a Claim for Convention Priority filed April 25, 2002, the Applicant claims benefit of the priority of a foreign application; Sweden Patent Application No. 9804333-4. A certified copy of the Swedish patent application was sent to the USPTO along with an Information Disclosure Statement in the same transmittal.

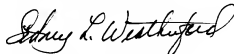
The Applicant respectfully asserts that the Frangione reference is disqualified as prior art. This being the case, since Frangione is disqualified and the Fox reference does not teach all the limitations of the Applicant's invention, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17-32.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney L. Weatherford", written in a cursive style.

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